

IN CASE OF A WAR.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE TYPE OF
VESSELS.OPINION OF AN ENGLISH
ADMIRAL.The United States Needs More Battle
Ships—Our Safe Position.

LONDON, June 29.—Vice-Admiral P. H. Colomb, the British navy, who is regarded as one of the leading naval authorities in the world on matters of naval strategy and tactics, was interviewed today. He gave a rapid yet comprehensive summary of his opinions concerning the relative value of battle ships like the Victoria and Camperdown, compared with swift cruisers of high maneuvering capacity.

"In the first place," said the admiral, "I cannot make a direct comparison of the value of the two classes of war ships for fighting purposes, because they are intended for entirely different work. Cruisers cannot do battle ships' duty, nor battle ships perform the service of a cruiser. The battle ship is expected to fight offensively and defensively anything that meets her. A cruiser is a scout for a fleet or a convoy for merchantmen; a destroyer of commerce or a fighter of its own class. A cruiser cannot fight battle ships, but battle ships cannot catch a cruiser. Abstractly, their respective values cannot be compared."

"But," I asked, "is it not likely for a battle ship to become less and less desirable as a cruiser's speed, coal-carrying capacity and rapidity in turning are increased?"

"Not at all. As long as a power with which we may some day go to war has battle ships we must have them. We cannot give up command of the sea. Our national life depends upon it. We must be able not only to meet the enemy's fleet with equal or greater force, but to make him stay away from our shores by attacking him on his own waters. Satisfactory defense demands the power of aggression. We must be able to follow the enemy wherever he goes. We must have enough battle ships to go to the enemy's coast and attack him at home. He will then run a risk of not only losing the fleet sent against us, but of suffering damage to his own ports. An enemy that knows us capable of repulsing and attacking at the same time will never dare send a fleet against us."

"But as gunnery improves do you not think armor will become practically useless, as in the case of the foot soldier on shore?"

"The comparison," replied Admiral Colomb, "is not a fair one. As long as the foot soldier's armor gave protection he wore it. A ship has good protection against a gun, and armor is constantly improving in quality. Your own countryman, Harvey, has recently made an improvement in the construction of armor, greatly increasing protection."

"Do you think the situation of the United States puts a different face on the policy we should adopt in building a navy?"

"To a certain extent," replied the admiral, after a moment's reflection. "You see, there is only one power that could attack you advantageously, and that is Great Britain, and, of course, Great Britain and the United States are not going to war. The only other nation with a very large navy is France. It would be very difficult for her to send a fleet across the ocean to operate at a distance of 2000 miles from her supplies. She might seize a harbor like Gardiner's bay, Long Island, for instance, as a coaling and supply station, but she would need a powerful convoy for coaling her steamers across the Atlantic to protect them against the United States navy. The expense, as well as the danger, would be enormous, besides the fleet would be harassed by torpedo-boats and rams whenever it approached the coast, and that risk would be too great. Besides, what could she do? She could not blockade the whole coast, and would hardly try to force an entrance into your great harbors in the face of mines and torpedoes."

"What kind of ships do you think the United States should build?"

"Battle ships, armored cruisers and torpedo boats," said Admiral Colomb emphatically. "If you have war with any South American States, some of whom are accumulating rather efficient war ships, you would have to be strong enough to take the aggressive on the shores of your enemy. Now if Chile, for instance, has two or three battle ships it would be useless to send cruisers to Chilean coast. They would not attack Chile's sea ports nor even blockade them, for the Chilean battle ships would raise the blockade whenever they wished to do so. Therefore you must have a greater force of battle ships than Chile."

"If I had control of your navy department, I should look at the nations with whom the United States might go to war. Then I should provide enough battle ships of any one of these possible enemies, and continually keep up this superiority. I would also build fast cruisers, many of which should go armored. I think very highly of vessels of such types as the New York, which are fast, have large coal-carrying capacity, mount guns of high power, and carry enough armor to protect them against any antagonist, not provided with equal or better battery. Besides these you need fast torpedo boats of all sizes, as a warning to European powers that you have means of coast defense, in addition to your land fortifications which, of course, would be sufficiently strong to keep up a heavy fire over channels where mines and torpedoes would be situated."

The Illustrated Tourists' Guide

That popular work, "THE TOURISTS GUIDE THROUGH THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS," is meeting with a steady sale both at home and abroad. Tourists and others visiting these islands should be in possession of a copy of it. It is a perfect mine of information relating to the scenes and attractions to be met with here. Copies in wrappers can be had at the publication office, 46 Merchant street, and at the News Dealers. Price 60 cents.

IT IS A CITY OF AMBER.

A BEAUTIFUL BUT DESERTED PALACE
IN NORTHERN INDIA.The Wonderful Palace Gives Evidence of
the Barbaric Splendor Enjoyed by a
Noble Race of Hindoo Kings Who Lived
Long Before Modern Times.The renowned and now deserted city
of Amber, in northwestern India, flourish-
ed with its countless thousands of in-
habitants and untold wealth and splendor
in the time of the Ptolemys.It is situated in a mountain nook,
about five miles from the present city of
Jaipur, and is one of India's jeweled
possessions for antiquarians.The great Amber palace is built of
solid red sandstone and variegated Jey-
poor marble and inlaid with costly gems.
It has stood for centuries as it now
stands, upon an elevated mountain slope
overlooking a picturesque lake and sur-
rounded by steep and rugged fortified
peaks, with the walled and long since
doomed and ruined city below.The palace is a masterpiece of
Hindoo architecture, solid and secure,
yet ornamental and beautiful. Entrance
is gained through a massive and strongly
fortified gate which leads into a spacious
central court richly adorned with rare
carvings, mighty trees and flowering
shrubs.The grand diwan-i-am or audience hall
is reached from the spacious court by a
massive flight of carved marble steps.
This hall is a noble example of Raj-ut-
art, with its double rows of shining mar-
ble columns supporting a massive enla-
bure, above which are latticed galleries
of marble worked in rare designs.The ceiling is of sculptured freestone,
while the floor is made up of huge slabs
of polished marble.It was upon this floor that the ancient
kings and nobles of this once royal city
witnessed many gorgeous scenes of gayety
and cruelty. Here they applauded the
royal tilts and sports, and here they re-
viewed the many fierce conflicts between
men and beasts and between royal Ben-
gal tigers and noble fighting elephants
in the grand courtyard below.It was also upon this spacious floor
that the kings and queens of this ancient
realm gathered together at sunrise every
morning for many centuries to witness the
sacrifice of a living human being on that
huge black blood-besmeared stone altar
in the small royal temple just over there
to the right of this marble hall.Here they would sit on their gold
woven rugs and hear the dying moans and
see and smell the smoke of these
sacrificed victims, in order to appease
(as they devoutly believed and believe to
this day) the divine Shiva's wrath.It is here that one may see every morn-
ing in the year an innocent goat burned
alive as a substitute for a human being
as an offering to heaven to appease the
destroyer's anger. How very like our
early biblical history.From this hall, echoing with memo-
ries both gay and sad, we wander
through spacious halls and galleries,
elaborately carved apartments, up and
down long rows of splendid stairs,
through sculptured gateways covered
with mosaics and doors inlaid in ivory
and precious stones, until we reach the
highest terrace in the palace.This was exclusively devoted to the
rajah's personal apartments, contrary to
our modern rules of sanitary arrange-
ments, for now we place our servants in
the airiest and best ventilated rooms and
remain ourselves in the lowest, dampest
and unhealthiest parts of our houses.These kindly apartments are beauti-
fully constructed with marble lattice
windows and pavilions, gilt and carved
ceilings and spacious arched porticoes.On our left is the joy mandir, or hall
of victory, adorned by panels of alaba-
ster inlaid with flowers in alto relieve
and ceiling glittering with mirrored and
spangled work, for which Jaipur was
long renowned, and for which Jaipur
succeeded, is now justly celebrated.Opposite this grand hall of victory is
the sukh nivas, or hall of pleasure, with
its doors of sweet-scented sandalwood
inlaid with ivory and its gorgeous paint-
ings of pleasures on earth and in heaven.Here are groves from which issue cool
clear streams of pure mountain water,
which is performed and made to run in
carved channels the whole length of the
marble floor to cool the heated atmos-
phere and the gay occupants of this hall.Adjoining this beautiful hall are the
sumptuous bathing apartments and the
deep, cool pleasure caverns, surrounded
by ferns and rare flowers, where the
kings and queens of this ancient castle
bade defiance to old Sol's burning rays
during India's hottest days.Here they whiled away their happy
days amid love and pleasure in an at-
mosphere rendered sweet by the aroma of
costly incense, listening to the strains of
Indian music, gazing now and then up-
on the beautiful girls as they performed
in scanty attire as they do to this day—the
famous natch dance of India.Next to these pleasure halls and groves
are the spacious apartments once occu-
pied by the harem—an indispensable ad-
junct to all eastern palaces.It was here that the mighty mahara-
jah, Jey Singh, in the early part of the
eighteenth century ruled supreme in
scanty attire as they do to this day—
hundreds of carefully chosen wives like
King David of old.From every hall and terrace, from ev-
ery arched pavilion and cavern latticed
window of this wonderful old palace, we
get glimpses of this picturesque spot, this
historic city, surrounded as it is by all
that nature and art can do to make it
beautiful.Mirrored in that clear, blue lake be-
low one sees the ancient gilded domes
and shrines of many costly temples.
There are the noble trees planted so
many centuries ago.Yonder are the strong old city walls
with their towering towers and ram-
parts, their massive gates and splendid
fortifications built so long ago, and on
each side tower up the castled and fort-
ified crags so majestically, as if conscious
of their own strength and power.—San
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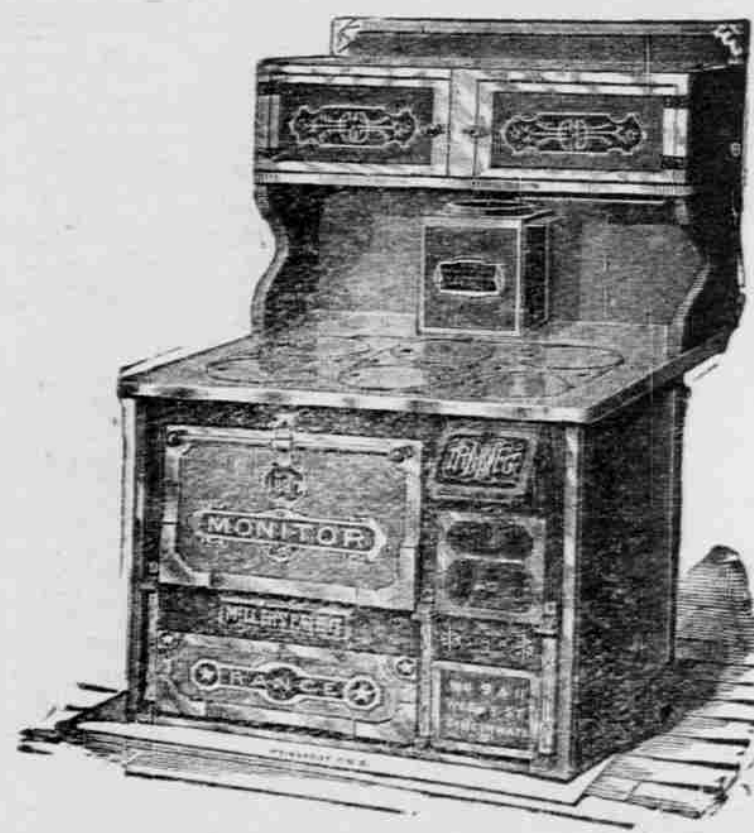
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